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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,943	08/06/2001	Yoshiaki Matsuzaki	122.1461	8373
21171	7590	12/16/2003	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MOFIZ, APUM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2175	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/921,943

Applicant(s)

MATSUZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Apu M Mofiz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

DIANE D. AMZRAH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 210

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,599 and Jones hereinafter).

As to claims 1, 10 and 11, Jones teaches an information retrieval/distribution system comprising: an information retrieval request unit (i.e. a web browser front end) for requesting the retrieval of several kinds of information which are scattered on a network (i.e. the internet) (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and a plurality of database management units (i.e. numerous sources/databases on the internet) for managing databases in which said several kinds of information are stored, wherein each of said plurality of database management units has management information about the databases which are managed by each database management unit (i.e. each DBMS must have information about its own databases/files/information content), and has management information about the databases which are managed by other database management units (i.e. the information repository consists of database objects representing information from

various sources/databases) which can be connected to said each database management unit through said network (i.e. internet) (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and wherein when a retrieval criterion (i.e. the user provided requirement or query) is input to said information retrieval request unit (i.e. web browser front end), one of said plurality of database management units, based on said management information in one database management unit, retrieves the information in the databases managed by said one database management unit, and requests any other database management unit managing the database in which the information related to said retrieval criterion is stored, to retrieve the information in the databases managed by said other database management unit, thereby distributing the information corresponding to said retrieval criterion to the information retrieval request source (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 2, Jones teaches that one database management unit manages a plurality of databases and can register the kinds of said plurality of databases as management information and, when the information retrieval is requested by said information retrieval request source, said one database management unit retrieves said plurality of databases to collect the required information, and then changes the data format of the collected information to a unified format (i.e. it changes the format of the raw source to the format required by the repository) and distributes the collected information to said information retrieval request source (i.e. the front end web browser) (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 3, Jones teaches one database management unit has the function of requesting said other database management unit to retrieve the information in the databases managed by said other database management unit followed by receiving the result of the retrieval of said information from said other database management unit to distribute said result to said information retrieval request source (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 4, Jones teaches that one manager has at least one of: the functions of including the list of the management information possessed by said other database management unit in the management information of said one database management unit; comparing the management information of the database management unit which has been newly requested to retrieve the required information by said one database management unit with the management information of said one database management unit to obtain the difference between said both management information (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and updating the management information of said one database management unit, based on said difference; and the function of communicating with said other database management unit periodically and exchanging the management information with said other database management unit each other to update the management information of said one database management unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

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As to claim 5, Jones teaches that one database management unit has the functions of: making category information which defines the categories (i.e. object classes/topics etc.) of the databases managed by said one database management unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and designating a database management unit managing the database in the same category to exchange the information with said database management unit, based on said category information (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 6, Jones teaches that one database management unit has the functions of: designating retrieving items of the information in the databases managed by said one database management unit through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and requesting said other database management unit to retrieve the information in the databases managed by said other database management unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 7, Jones teaches that one database management unit has the function of requesting automatically said other database management unit managing the database in which the information related to said retrieval criterion is stored, to retrieve said information, in the case in which said one database management unit does not designate any retrieving item through the retrieving screen of said information

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retrieval request unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 8, Jones teaches that one database management unit has the functions of: designating a category through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and connecting said one database management unit automatically to said other database management unit managing the database in said category to select said database in said category (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

As to claim 9, Jones teaches one database management unit has the functions of: registering the retrieval information of said information retrieval request source (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); executing the same retrieval periodically (e.g. newsgroup), based on said retrieval information (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67); and sending the result of the retrieval to said information retrieval request source (col 3, lines 1-67; col 4, lines 1-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 1-67).

Points of Contact

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (703) 605-

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4240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30

P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached at (703) 3053830. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Apu M. Mofiz
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2175

December 09, 2003

DIANE D. MIZRAHI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100